

2 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Frank Ursomarso

1. The Associate Deputy Director for Administration called on the morning of 2 January 1976 to say that Subject, a so-called advance man from the White House, would be paying a visit to the Agency compound later in the afternoon. The ADD/A asked the undersigned to meet with Subject and show him those parts of the building and compound that were of interest in connection with a possible forthcoming visit by the President. Mr. McMahon suggested that I extend an invitation to Angus Thuermer to join in meeting with Mr. Ursomarso and I later did this but was told by [redacted] acting for Mr. Thuermer, that that office would prefer to stay out of the negotiation at this time.

STATINTL

2. Starting at 1530 hours and continuing for approximately one hour, the writer escorted the Subject around the perimeter of the compound and inside the building, particularly the first and seventh floors. Subject indicated during these rounds that he has become something of a specialist in assessing would-be sites for Presidential visits and planning the use of same from the standpoint of media coverage, desirable photo opportunities, etc. The Subject made detailed notes on the layout of the first floor and seemed particularly interested in the potential of certain areas as backdrops for a ceremony or speeches. He seemed particularly interested in the 1-D corridor, where the Fine Arts displays are presented; the main lobby (which he found ideal except for the pillars); and the north and south cafeterias.

3. Considerable time was spent during the tour inside the Agency auditorium, where the Subject quizzed the auditorium manager, [redacted] on such details as the candle power available in the room, the seating and standing capacity, the possible variations in stage backdrops, etc.

STATINTL

Successor - DGT

4. Mr. Ursomarso pointed out during the course of our travels that all of this studying was preliminary at this point since a Presidential decision to visit the compound has not been reached. He noted that additional discussions on the point would be held at the White House with the President and with Mr. Bush. He stated that it was entirely possible that if a visit occurred it would feature two sessions: the first being a "public session" perhaps in the auditorium which would feature the actual swearing-in ceremony* and be witnessed by a large media contingent and numerous federal VIPs; and secondly, a "private session" for the benefit of Agency employees presumably to be held somewhere inside the building where attendance could be controlled by appropriate badge showing. In all of this speculation the writer emphasized that we had considerable flexibility in meeting any requirements that might be presented from either a security or public relations standpoint.

5. As Mr. Ursomarso was departing the compound, apparently totally satisfied with the information he had received, I stressed that we were operating with a maximum hold-down regarding this contingency and would do nothing until we received further word. He stated in closing he would be back in touch.

STATINTL

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Director of Security

* THIS WAS THE FIRST, CONCRETE LEAD THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN QUESTION WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SWEARING IN AMB. BUSH AS THE NEW DCI.

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